

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/803,604

Examiner

Anton B. Harris

Applicant(s)

SHOTEY ET AL.

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 17 March 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

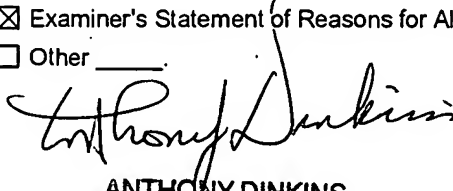
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/10/04; 3/17/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


ANTHONY DINKINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-23 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The limitations found in claims 1-14 are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination. The prior art of record does not disclose the limitations of at least one guide ridge that extends from an inside surface of at least one outlet box side wall and at least one movement restraining guide that extends from an outside surface of at least one insert side wall, the guide ridge extending at a location corresponding to the movement restraining guide such that when the insert is placed into the outlet box, the interaction between the guide ridge and the movement restraining guide restricts rotational movement of the insert within the outlet box and aligns at least a portion of the mounting screw apertures of the insert with at least a portion of the mounting screw holes of the outlet box in combination with the other limitations recited in claim 1.

The limitations found in claims 15-23 are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination. The prior art of record does not disclose the limitations of wherein at least one mounting screw hole includes a hole opening having an opening diameter and a hole body having a body diameter, the opening diameter being larger than the body diameter, the hole opening sloping to the hole body to form a conical opening with a total opening angle between about 20 degrees to about 135 degrees in combination with the other limitations recited in claim 15.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Mori U.S. Patent No. 3,987,928 discloses an electrical outlet box and cover system including mounting screws, but does not disclose the structural limitations as claimed.

Ford U.S. Patent No. 5,456,373 discloses an electrical outlet box and cover system including a recessed electrical outlet box, but does not disclose the structural limitations as claimed.

Buckshaw et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,449,860 discloses an electrical outlet box and cover system including a cover and an insert, but does not disclose the structural limitations as claimed.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anton B Harris whose telephone number is (571) 272-1976. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Dean Reichard, can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)

872-9306.

abh

5/13/05



ANTHONY DINKINS
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